

THE PERMANENCY PLANNER

Michigan Foster Care Review Board Program

Supporting safe and timely permanency through review, advocacy, and collaboration.

Winter 2006/7



----- We Shall Be Heard -----

By Jim Novell, Program Manager

Last year was a year of despair in the already tragic saga of children in our state foster care system. Newspaper reports of foster children being tortured and killed seemed as frequent as articles reporting deaths of Michigan soldiers serving in Iraq. These reports drew outrage from our citizenry and promises of reform by those commissioned to protect these children.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that, in the same time frame, a federal lawsuit was filed against the State of Michigan, alleging that the Department of Human Services (DHS) has failed to provide adequate protection and care for our foster children. As expected, these reports were followed by an abundance of criticism. Although high-profile tragedies and descriptions of a system in crisis can be discounted as anomalies or journalistic overstatement, the reality of these events does not afford *us* that luxury.

By "us," I refer not only to the beleaguered Department of Human Services and its under-compensated contractors, but also to our family courts, where attorneys too often fail to give competent representation to children in foster care, and judges too often fail to hold those attorneys to account. I refer not only to colleges that fail to prepare caseworkers for the challenge of protecting foster children, but also to a state legislature whose mantra is "tell us what we can do to help, but don't ask for more money." I refer not only to a federal government that conditions funding on the content of forms, rather than the quality of care, but also to a general citizenry that delegates the task of protecting foster children to the government and then drops its demand for reform upon learning what it will cost to correct the problem.

My intent here is not to lay blame on any one of the above-mentioned entities, but to emphasize the collective shortcomings of our system and our society. The harsh but simple truth is that we are not working together to protect foster children and assist the broken families that produce them. Our foster care "system" will not be successful until all of the parts begin to function as an interdependent, mutually-accountable and mutually-responsible whole, with shared values and goals. We do not even approach that ideal, because what we refer to in our state as the foster care "system" is really not a system at all; at best, it is a collection of independent agencies thrown together with only minimal collaboration and accountability.

This disconnect is evident in the federal lawsuit. The plaintiffs say DHS has been negligent in losing federal funding by failing to comply with federal regulations. Although DHS has done less than it could, the problem is equally attributable to the failure of courts to enter placement orders that fulfill federal rules and the failure of the legislature to require oversight of the judicial process. The judiciary and the legislature may not be named defendants in the lawsuit, but they certainly share culpability in the state's failure to ensure adequate funding for children in foster care.

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Visit the FCRB website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/fcrb/fcrb.htm>
for program and contact information, annual reports, previous newsletters,
applications for board membership, request for review forms, and links to other
related foster care programs and services.



The actions and decisions of social service administrators, caseworkers, judges, foster parents, attorneys, and adjunct service providers do not occur in a vacuum. A lapse in performance by one has both a direct and indirect impact upon the others and, ultimately, upon the care and safety of foster children. We cannot succeed when our decision-makers think and act in isolation.

The goals of collaboration and cohesiveness will not be achieved, however, without an objective and authoritative method of oversight. Someone must have both the power and the capacity to hold each branch of the system accountable for its actions and omissions. This power must be free from the encumbrances of personal fear or political ambition. In the absence of an effective method of oversight, we will never realize our potential, even if we solve our funding crisis and maximize our technology.

State government, with its separation of powers and political quarrels, makes such an arrangement difficult; however, the legislature took a meaningful step forward in 1980 by creating the Foster Care Review Board (FCRB). This brought together a well-informed and culturally-diverse group of citizens who were united by a common passion for the cause of foster children. The FCRB volunteers have served faithfully and competently for 26 years. Recent events, however, suggest that their recommendations have not been heard.

As we strive to better care for our state's most vulnerable and disenfranchised citizens (children in foster care), it will be essential to our success that the voice of the Foster Care Review Board is heard, acknowledged, and valued by the legislature and by all who have a stake in protecting our children. This is the goal of the Foster Care Review Board in 2007, and we fully plan to achieve it.



----- Annual Training 2006 -----
Putting the Pieces Together:
Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Children in Foster Care

It hardly seemed like a year had passed when our board members once again gathered in November for the required FCRB annual training. The theme of this year's training focused on citizen volunteers becoming more proficient in evaluating mental health services that children in foster care receive or require. Our goal, as with each year's training, is to help board members increase their confidence and competence in making informed and helpful recommendations to the courts and caseworkers. The 2006 training included a number of workshops conducted by experts on children's mental health issues from throughout our state.



(Lillian Bernstein and Brenda Baker-Mbacke)

Shauna Tindall, Ph.D. provided a concise, yet comprehensive, overview of mental health treatment for children in foster care. She identified the types of mental health disorders typically seen in foster care children, and explained appropriate therapies and medications. Dr. Tindall is a private practitioner in the Ann Arbor area who provides independent evaluations of, and expert testimony about, parents suspected of having Munchausen by Proxy syndrome.

*Thank you, Lillian, for 25
years of sharing, and a
lifetime of caring*

Mary Beth Reimer, L.M.S.W., discussed bonding and attachment issues in children up to three years old and helped board members better understand the harmful impact of a child's initial removal from a parent, and of removals from subsequent placements, on the social and emotional development of children in foster care. Ms. Reimer is an Infant Mental Health Specialist with the Ottawa County Health Department.



Mark Cody, J.D., provided board members with an overview of services available through the mental health system, as well as information on how to overcome barriers within the

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system to obtain timely and appropriate mental health services for children in foster care. Mr. Cody is the Legal Director at Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc., where he represents clients with disabilities who are involved in litigation directed at accomplishing system changes.

Joan Jackson-Johnson, Ph.D., shared her extensive knowledge and expertise about children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Because this is the most prevalent mental health disorder in foster children reviewed by the board, Dr. Jackson's insights into etiology, diagnosis, and treatment were extremely valuable. Dr. Jackson is a clinical psychologist and owner of the East Lansing Center for the Family. She was recently appointed as Director of Lansing's Department of Human Relations and Community Services. (*See related note.*)

In addition to these beneficial presentations conducted by our mental health experts, our board members learned about services available to youth "aging out" of the foster care system and preparing to live independently. Mary Chaliman, Foster Care Program Manager for the Michigan Department of Human Services, and Shannon Gibson, Youth Coordinator with the Foster Care Program Office at the Michigan Department of Human Services, shared with the audience a number of services that can be recommended to caseworkers involved in FCRB reviews. (*See chart "Overview of Available Services to Aging Out Youth."*)

Finally, the board was inspired by the Honorable Kenneth Tacoma, Chief Judge of Wexford County. Judge Tacoma's presentation highlighted key issues and concerns surrounding the current statutory requirements for termination of parental rights, which he notes in his published article entitled "Lost and Alone on Some Forgotten Highway." In that article, Judge Tacoma identifies and addresses the adverse and unintended consequences of federal ASFA requirements and the 1997 Binsfeld legislation as they pertain to establishing permanency for children in foster care. Board members were encouraged that a judge had taken the time to think through these critical issues, and took the initiative to put his thoughts on paper to invite public debate. To quote a comment from a board member's conference evaluation form, "Judge Tacoma appears to be a refreshing, passionate, and knowledgeable advocate for children in the foster care system." (*A copy of Judge Tacoma's article can be obtained on our website or by calling the Detroit FCRB office.*)

The Board also took the opportunity at this year's conference to honor Lillian Bernstein, who is an original board member of the FCRB and has served for 25 years. Lillian's commitment, passion, and compassion, as well as her words of experiential wisdom, have been valuable to our program and an inspiration to both program staff and board members who have served with her during that time. We look forward to her presence with us for many more years.

Although we had a full and demanding schedule, board members left the annual training refreshed and recharged, and felt better equipped to fulfill their responsibilities in helping to ensure safe and timely permanency for children in our foster care system.



(Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma, Chief Judge,
Wexford County Probate Court)

*Judge Tacoma shares his views
gathered from the bench.*



(Bob Goldenbogen, Kathy Bruer, Jorja
Ackels, Jonathan Hale, Debra Kailie)

Proud to serve.



(Barbara Allen, Rose Barhydt, Lillian Bernstein,
Darnita Stein, Brenda Baker-Mbacke')

*Happiness is ... Serving on the
FCRB.*

*** * * Thank You for Your Time, Talent, and Energy * * ***

The following citizens were recognized for completion of at least three years of continuous and dedicated service to the Foster Care Review Board. Many of the individuals listed have served multiple three-year terms.

Jorja Ackels
Barbara Allen
Brenda Atkinson
Rose Marie Barhydt
Lillian Bernstein
John Bishop
Henry Bohm
Kathryn Bruer
Mary Lee Campbell
Janelle Coklow

Fred Corser, Jr.
Ivan Cotman
Douglas Dempsey
Robert Goldenbogen
Daniel Groce
Eugene Groesbeck
Jonathan Hale
Mary Hammons
Marion Hoey
Loretta Horton

Wendy Johnson
Vernon Laninga
JoAnn McGhee
Romona McKinney
Carrie Latta
Charles Ludwig
Vicky Rigney
Marguerita Ross-Price
Judith Ruttan
Wain Saeger

Randy Sims
Willie Stanley
Kathie Stanley-House
Darnita Stein
Mark Steinhauer
Ellen Stephens
Gayle Stewart
Bruce Trevithick
Sara Tyranski
Mary Wood

----- FCRB STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE -----
ADJUSTS IT'S FOCUS



The Foster Care Review Board Statewide Advisory Committee traditionally has been a key forum for board members to share information and identify needs within the system, as well as interact directly with key professionals and child advocates involved with the foster care system. The committee is comprised of citizen volunteers representing each of the 30 local review boards, as well as leaders from within the foster care system representing the courts, social services agencies, child advocates.



The board members were concerned, however, that the committee's structure provided no real mechanism for proposing and advocating for solutions to identified problems. In response to this perceived shortcoming, in April 2006, the committee approved a proposal from its executive committee establishing subcommittees that will focus on key subject areas. The subcommittees will identify problems in specific areas of the foster care system; propose strategies to address the problems; and establish a plan allowing FCRB board members to effectively communicate these strategies and recommendations to state and local policy makers, legislators, etc.



Each subcommittee is made up of six to eight board members, a program staff facilitator, and "system consultants" (representatives from the foster care system who can provide consultation to the committee in the development and implementation of their advocacy plans). Citizen advocates working directly with members of the professional community can be a powerful force in assessing and addressing the obstacles to providing adequate care and ensuring timely permanency of children in foster care. Within this collaborative structure,

citizen volunteers of the FCRB believe they can become more effective in their advocacy efforts and increase public awareness of the needs of children and families for whom foster care becomes the necessary intervention.

Below are summary descriptions of the goals of each subcommittee:

Court/Legal Representation Subcommittee: identify court practices or policies, including those relating to parental attorney and L-GAL representation, that create or maintain barriers to safe and timely permanency for children in foster care.

Foster Parent Issues Subcommittee: evaluate statewide practices or policies and identify needs related to successful foster parent recruitment, maintenance, support, and recognition, and develop recommendations and strategies for improving the quality and quantity of foster parents available to care for children removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect.

Foster Care/Adoption Subcommittee: identify practices, policies, and needs within DHS and private agencies that create or maintain barriers to safe and timely permanency for children in foster care.

Educational Issues Subcommittee: identify issues or barriers related to the delivery of educational services to children in the foster care system; recommend strategies for ensuring that children receive appropriate educational services, including evaluation, special education, and vocational training.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Subcommittee: identify barriers to providing mental health services to children in foster care. The subcommittee will develop and recommend strategies to help assure that children receive appropriate mental health services, including timely evaluation and treatment.

Legislative Issues Subcommittee: establish a way to monitor foster care-related legislation, determine which legislation is appropriate for comment by citizen volunteers, and propose an appropriate response. The Legislative Committee will be responsible for planning future legislative days and assemblies.

Program Improvement Subcommittee: ensure FCRB program practices and policies comply with statutory requirements and adhere to legislative intent. The subcommittee will evaluate and recommend ways in which the FCRB can maximize resources to benefit stakeholders in their efforts to facilitate safe and timely permanency for children in the foster care system. The subcommittee will also develop and review the biannual program improvement goals.

----- CONCURRENT PLANNING 101: INTRODUCTION -----
(And an Argument for Its Implementation in Michigan)
By Kevin Sherman, MA

“Concurrent planning” has been described as a structured, planned approach to moving children from the uncertainty of foster care to the stability and security of a permanent family as quickly and as safely as possible. It is a process of working toward family reunification while developing an alternative plan in case reunification is not ultimately possible. It helps ensure children do not linger in foster care longer than necessary.

The concept of concurrent planning was developed in the 1980s at Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho by Linda Katz and Norma Spoonemore, and by Chris Robinson of the Washington Division of Children and Family Services (Katz, Spoonemore & Robinson, 1994). It was developed as an alternative to sequential planning, which occurs when an agency or caseworker first works diligently toward reunification with the birth family. If a year or more passes, and reunification appears to be unlikely, the caseworker changes the focus to either adoption or another permanency option, resulting in another new process and timeline for the child.

Today, concurrent permanency planning is gaining in popularity around the country, and models are being planned or tested in Maryland (Baltimore), California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New York (New York City), North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.¹ States are applying the principles and framework of concurrent permanency planning to targeted groups of very young children likely to linger in foster care, as well as focusing on expedited permanency planning for older children in care.²

Goals of Concurrent Permanency Planning

- Achieve early permanency for children.
- Decrease children’s length of stay in foster care.
- Minimize the negative impact on children of separation and loss.
- Reduce the number of moves and relationship disruptions children experience in foster care.
- Develop a network of permanency planning resource parents (relatives or non-relatives) who can work towards reunification and also serve as permanency resources for children.
- Maintain continuity in family and sibling relationships for children in foster care.



ASFA/CFSR Implications

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 supports the concept of concurrency on several levels, but stops short of mandating concurrent planning in all situations. The law does not require a state to engage in concurrent planning during the period in which the agency is working to reunite a family. However, it does specify that reasonable efforts to place a child for adoption or with a legal guardian *may* be made concurrently with reasonable efforts to reunite the family. 42 U.S.C. 671 (a)(15)(F) (1997).

While concurrent planning is not directly evaluated as part of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) outcomes and indicators, it is mentioned in 51 of 52 state final reports. Concurrent planning is linked to positive results in at least 11 states. These positive results include: reduced time to permanency and establishment of appropriate permanency goals (LA, NE, VT); enhanced reunification or adoption efforts by engaging parents (CO, ND); and reduced time to adoption finalization (CA, HI, ID, MA, ND, RI, UT, WA).³ At least nine states have formal concurrent planning policies and protocols.

Continued on next page.

¹ Ott, Alice Boles; *Tools for Permanency: Tool #1: Concurrent Permanency Planning*; New York City: Hunter College School of Social Work and National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning.

² Ibid

³ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (April 2005). *Concurrent Planning: What the Evidence Shows*, Washington, D.C.

Michigan

Although the Michigan Department of Human Services Foster Care Manual does not specifically address concurrent planning, it supports the concept. The Philosophy Statement implies such support with the following statements:

“Foster care services are directed toward assisting parents in improving the level of care for children in their homes in a timely manner. If it is determined that reunification after temporary placement cannot be achieved, foster care services are directed at establishing permanence outside of the family home, with preference for placement within the child's relative network.”

And,

“Attainment of an appropriate permanent plan for all children in a family is the primary goal of total case activity in foster care ...” (CFF 721)

Conclusion

The move from sequential to concurrent planning is underway throughout the United States. The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-89) mandated shortened timelines for achieving permanency for children in foster care. To meet these timelines, most states have come to rely on concurrent planning. Approximately 38 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico have enacted legislation addressing the issue of concurrent planning.

As other states and agencies accumulate positive results, and with their data supporting the effectiveness of concurrent planning methods, implementation of this strategic practice in Michigan would greatly benefit the state's foster care children while strengthening compliance with federal funding requirements regarding the length of time children remain in foster care.

(Kevin Sherman is the FCRB Program Representative for the Gaylord office, which reviews cases from 48 counties in the northern half of the state and the Upper Peninsula.)



CONGRATULATIONS...

... to **Dr. Joan Jackson Johnson**, who was appointed Director of Human Relations and Community Services for the City of Lansing. Dr. Jackson Johnson is also the owner/director of the East Lansing Center for the Family and has graciously supported the Foster Care Review Board Program over the years by lending her expertise to training our citizen volunteers. This is consistent with her professional and personal history of giving back to her community by helping to meet the needs of the less fortunate, while simultaneously working to ameliorate conditions which lead to their misfortune. Our members are honored to have Dr. Jackson Johnson as a supporter as we work to accomplish those same goals.



STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE-FAMILY SERVICES

----- UPCOMING CHILD WELFARE TRAININGS -----

by Carol A. Siemon

Continued funding from the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice and new training funds from the federal government through the Court Improvement Program will enable us to not only offer a number of training opportunities for 2007, but also work on developing institutionalized training for judges, lawyers, and other child welfare professionals.

The child welfare training is being developed in response to articulated needs from the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process, the Court Improvement Program 2005 Reassessment, a survey done of the Michigan State Bar's Children's Law Section, direct feedback from child welfare professionals (including FCRB program representatives), and information gathered from evaluations filled out by attendees at past trainings. While SCAO child welfare training is still in its infancy, the goal is to develop more comprehensive and systematic training opportunities over the next few years.

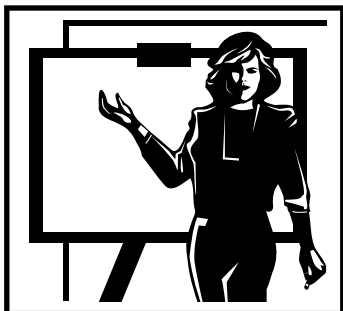
Some of the trainings coming up for this year are:

"Appellate Issues in Child Protective Proceedings." This training, on March 14 at the Hall of Justice, is limited to attorneys and is designed to expand their knowledge and skills to more effectively handle appellate issues in child protective proceedings. Training sessions will include the "nuts and bolts" of child protective proceedings appeals, effective written advocacy, and best practices when appearing before the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court. Participants will hear Michigan experts discuss key topics, including preserving the record in the lower court, how to creatively frame the issues in an appeal, how to anticipate and avoid potential appellate issues at the trial court level, when to utilize interlocutory appeals, effective appellate motion practice, dealing with Hatcher issues, and handling a termination of parental rights appeal.

"Paving the Road to Recovery and Reunification: Courts, Child Welfare, & Treatment Partners," to be held April 3-4, 2007 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, will offer judges, lawyers, children's protective services, foster care, and adoption workers, tribes, CASAs, FCRB, substance treatment providers, drug court personnel, and related child welfare professionals national and state speakers on substance abuse and child welfare issues. Highlights will include 24 different workshops, a youth panel, a parent panel, and several plenary speakers. This free conference is co-sponsored by the State Court Administrative Office, Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, Department of Human Services, Department of Community Health, Office of Drug Control Policy, Office of Children's Ombudsman, Tribal/State Partnership, and Children's Charter of the Courts.

"Parents' Attorneys Advocacy Institute" will be offered on or about July 25th. Adequate representation of parents to ensure that their interests are fully addressed is critical to the proper functioning of the court system and is usually in the child's best interests. This training is being developed in cooperation with the University of Michigan Law School and the Legal Assistance Foundation in Chicago. Assuming a positive response, we will offer this training on a regular basis.

"Summer Series on Youth in Transition Issues" will explore a number of the issues raised in the Pew Commission and other recent focuses on the challenges confronting children in foster care as they "age out" of the system.



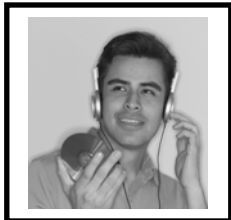
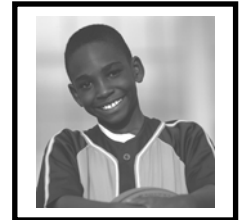
Carol Siemon is Training and Development Manager with Family Services at the State Court Administrative Office.

Additional information on our child welfare trainings will be available in the near future. Please feel free to contact Joy Thelen, Administrative Assistant to Carol Siemon, at ThelenJ@courts.mi.gov with questions, requests for additional information, training topics, or suggested speakers.



OVERVIEW OF SERVICES AVAILABLE TO TRANSITIONING YOUTH

Youth in Transition (Michigan's name for Chafee) is a funding source available to cover expenses NOT covered by other government or community resources or to augment services provided by other funding sources.



Eligibility Requirements

- 1) Michigan youth who are active in the foster care system, placed out of their home based on abuse and neglect, starting at age 14 and up to age 21.
- 2) Michigan youth, ages 18 to 21, who have been in foster care on or after their 14th birthday but are no longer under DHS supervision.

Where to Apply

- 1) Youth with open cases can access funds through his/her foster care case manager.
- 2) Youth with a closed case must apply for closed case services (YIT) in the current county of residence through the local DHS office.

Covered YIT expenses include:

Mentorship

- Mentorships and family connection services, if the youth is not covered by foster care family reunification services.

Parenting Skills

- Parenting skills/classes.
- Day care costs not covered by FIP (but not denied due to noncompliance) for working teen parents and/or teen parents in educational/vocational programs.

Continued on next page.

Relationship Building Skills

- Classes or groups on interpersonal communication/relationship building and maintenance and IL skills.
- Coordination and connection between associated support people and the youth with various and appropriate community agencies and services.
- Membership in community organizations which would promote/support the youth with transitioning to independent living, i.e., YMCA/YWCA, Junior Achievement, Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Housing

- Assistance in locating a suitable living arrangement.
- First month's rent, security deposits, and utility deposits; up to \$1,000 deposit if the youth is age 18 to 21, is leaving foster care, or has left foster care because he/she has attained 18 or 19 years of age but has not attained 21 years of age.
- Start-up goods, up to a total of \$1,000:
 - Food;
 - Personal attire and/or hygiene;
 - Grooming Supplies
 - Household cleaning supplies;
 - Basic household furniture;
 - Household utensils/tools;
 - Linens;
 - Household record keeping and accounting needs, etc.



Employment Services

- Career exploration.
- Job training.
- Job placement and retention.
- Training in job-readiness skills such as interviewing, developing a resume, and job retention.
- Job-related supports:
 - Uniforms;
 - Tools;
 - Transportation;
 - Apprentice fees;
 - Safety clothing;
 - Equipment.

Educational Support

- Assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, vocational training, and post-secondary education (college/trade school).
- Tutoring services.
- Vocational placement.
- Career planning.
- College resources.
- GED preparation and testing.
 - Educational testing and assessments;
 - Senior pictures.
- Educational supports:
 - Special tuition;
 - Books;
 - Transportation;
 - Assistance in accessing PELL grants, Tuition Incentive Program (TIP), 1-888-4-GRANTS, student loans, scholarships, and the Educational Training Voucher (ETV) (for information on this scholarship, go to www.michigan.gov/dhs or call (517) 241-8904.

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Graduation Expenses

Funding sources are available for graduation expenses:

- Senior class ring – up to \$100.
- Tuxedo rentals and dress purchases for senior prom – up to \$100.
- Senior cap and gown rental, announcements – up to \$100.

Physical and Mental Health Services

- Preventive health services – smoking avoidance, substance abuse prevention, nutrition, pregnancy prevention, personal hygiene, etc.
- Counseling.
- Providing personal and emotional support for the youth if he/she is aging out of foster care, including the use of mentors and other dedicated adults.
- Individual or group counseling for the youth if he/she is receiving closed case services only.

Driver's Education

Funding sources are available for driver's education, fees for driver's license, and state I.D.

The following is a list of websites that are very helpful in relation to youth transitioning out of foster care:

www.fyi3.com

www.foster-education.org

www.nycrs.ou.edu

www.fosterclub.org

www.acf.dhhs.gov

www.casey.org www.caseylifeskills.org

<http://mietv.lssm.org>

www.aecf.org

www.jimcaseyyouth.org



Contact person:

Foster Care Program Office

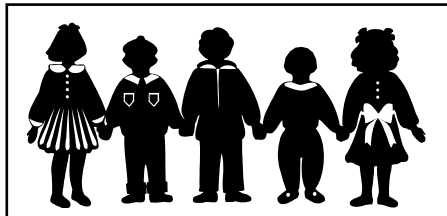
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2007 **	Children's Law Section Training (Cooley Law School, Lansing)
March 9, 2007	MI Court Improvement Program Task Force Meeting
March 14, 2007 **	<i>Appellate Issues in Child Protective Proceedings</i> (Hall of Justice, Lansing)
March 23, 2007	FCRB Advisory Committee Meeting (Hall of Justice, Lansing)
April 3-4, 2007 **	<i>Paving the Road to Recovery and Reunification: Courts, Child Welfare, and Treatment Partners</i> (conference addressing substance abuse issues - Kellogg Center, East Lansing) Visit www.childcrt.org or call 517-482-7533 for more information
April 19-20, 2007	FCRB Orientation for New Board Members (Sheraton Lansing)
June 6 & July 10, 2007 **	Summer Series: Youth Transitioning from Foster Care (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
July 25, 2007 **	Parents Advocacy Institute: <i>Effective Advocacy by Parents' Attorneys in Child Protective Proceedings</i> (Hall of Justice, Lansing)
Oct. 22-23, 2007 **	U of M Child Abuse and Neglect Conference (Plymouth, MI)
November 8-9, 2007	FCRB Annual Training Conference (Frankenmuth, MI)

** For information on these trainings, contact Joy Thelen at ThelenJ@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5322.

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